



MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - HUTCHINSON, KANSAS
April 20, 2021
9:00 a.m.

1. The Governing Body of the City of Hutchinson, Kansas met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 in the City Council Chambers with Mayor Garza presiding. Councilmembers Piros de Carvalho, Daveline, Soldner and Bagwell were present in person.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.
3. The prayer was given by Pastor Kim Biery of Trinity United Methodist Church.
4. Proclamations
 - a. A Proclamation for Reno County Crime Victims' Rights Week was accepted by Tom Stanton, Reno County District Attorney. Mr. Stanton thanked the council for the Proclamation; and said there would be a candlelight ceremony in the Community Building in South Hutchinson at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 2021 honoring victims.
 - b. A Proclamation for Fair Housing Month was accepted by Lisa Gleason, Chairman of the Housing Commission. Ms. Gleason said they are grateful for council's support, saying it allows them to make progress toward housing issues in the City.
 - c. The Proclamation for Building Safety Month was accepted by Izzy Rivera, Building Official. Mr. Rivera said the International Code Council was created to assist building officials; and to raise awareness of building safety. He said during Building Safety month there are four topics that will be discussed which include energy and innovation, training the next generation, water safety and disaster preparedness.
 - d. The Proclamation for Arbor Day was accepted by Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities. Mr. Combs said they are celebrating a little lower key this year than in past years. He said trees will be planted in Orchard Park; and there will be posts on social media. Mr. Combs said they hope to have a larger celebration next year.
5. Petitions, Remonstrances, and Communications
 - a. Oral communications from the audience. (Please limit your remarks to five (5) minutes and to items NOT on the agenda.)
 - Rise Up Reno – Three individuals with Rise Up Reno spoke about marijuana laws, etc. They said since legalizing marijuana, Colorado has seen more people coming into the emergency room, higher rates of mental health cases, illegal growing of marijuana in homes, etc. They

also talked about how marijuana use affects behavior, decision making, brain development, etc.

- SculptureWalk Selections – Teresa Preston with the Public Art Design Council spoke about the five new sculptures; and where they will be located. She said the sculptures will be installed in May by the Parks Department; and said a reception will be held at July's Third Thursday event at which time the Juror's Award will be named. Discussion ensued about the selection process, purchase of sculptures, etc.
- Spring Cleanup and update on potholes. Brian Clennan, Director of Public Works, said the cleanup is scheduled for April 24-25, 2021, with dumpsters being placed at 14 locations throughout the City. He said one location was changed due to the basketball tournament, saying the dumpster normally located at the Sport Arena was being moved to the parking lot at 12th and Plum. Mr. Clennan said last year over 100 tons of waste was collected; and spoke about items that can't be disposed of which includes mattresses, tires, tree limbs, hazardous waste, etc.

Mr. Clennan then spoke about potholes, their approach to repairs, budget for repairs, etc. He said their goal is to repair a pothole within two days of being notified about them, but said they are not always able to do so because of workload, weather, and staffing levels. He said in 2020 there were eight positions that were vacant due to budget concerns, which left them with 10 employees to do street maintenance work including crack sealing. Mr. Clennan said there are currently six vacancies; and they are trying to fill those positions. He said it is tough to get applicants for these positions, saying other cities are having the same problem. Mr. Clennan then introduced Jesse Wisecarver who oversees the pothole crew. He said Mr. Wisecarver started working for the City as a seasonal employee in 2002; and was promoted to supervisor in 2019. Mr. Wisecarver talked about a patch truck that was purchased in 2020; and the process used for patching potholes. Discussion ensued regarding the use of hot mix, asphalt, composites, etc. Mr. Clennan said since the patching truck was received in 2020, they have only received 72 requests for repairs to potholes. He said they are not getting a lot of calls from people; and encouraged citizens to call in pothole locations or to report them on the City's website. Mr. Clennan said crews are also out identifying potholes, patching them, placing them on a follow-up schedule, etc.

- Public Comment

Police Chief Jeff Hooper said this Saturday the Police Department will participate in the DEA Drug Takeback Day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He encouraged citizens to drop off medications, over the counter drugs, etc, at the Law Enforcement Center; and they will take care of disposing of those items.

Debra Teufel, President of the Chamber of Commerce, recognized LeAnn Cox with Visit Hutch and Dr. Chris Parker with the NJCAA. She said this is an exciting week with the 74th year of the men's basketball championship games; and the 73rd year for the City to hold the event. Ms. Teufel thanked LeAnn Cox and Holly Leiker with Visit Hutch for the countless hours they have put in; and recognized the 200 plus volunteers with the American Legion that make this event possible. She also thanked City staff that make the City look beautiful by putting up flags, etc.

LeAnn Cox with Visit Hutch said this is an important week for the organization, as well as the City. She said there are 24 teams here from across the country that eat in our restaurants, stay in hotels, fill their buses with gasoline, etc. Ms. Cox said this is an important relationship; and said Dr. Parker is here this week from Charlotte, North Carolina. She said he has been with the organization since 2017; and said they host over 50 national championships each year.

Dr. Parker with the NJCAA said it is an honor to be here. He said they have a great partnership with the City; and said they want to be able to bring more events to the City. Dr. Parker said hotel rooms are a concern; and there are six teams currently staying in Wichita. He said they would like to keep the revenue here in Hutchinson; and they want to work with us. Dr. Parker said next year is the 75th anniversary, that great student athletes come out of this tournament; and coaches from across the country are here for one week a year. Councilmember Daveline said later in the meeting council would be discussing the Atrium; and asked Dr. Parker to give the council his thoughts in terms of quality and availability of rooms. Dr. Parker said it is critical; and does not like having teams staying an hour away. He reiterated that having a convention center/hotel is critical; and some of the teams coaches expect middle to higher amenities being offered. Dr. Parker encouraged councilmembers to evaluate such a proposal; and gave them his blessing to move forward saying the NJCAA will do anything they can to support the City.

Tom and Linda Jungmeyer, 517 East Avenue B, said they moved here in May 2019 and purchased a home. He said in September they received a notice to paint their house; and the notice gave them 30 days to complete the work. Mr. Jungmeyer said it will take them longer than that; and said the inspector took them to court over this matter. He said he has been made into a criminal for not painting his house; and said they have faced several issues including Covid, winter weather, etc. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho thanked him for bringing this matter to their attention. Councilmember Bagwell said she has been following this matter; and gave a summary of what had transpired with regard to this property. She said he has made good progress on the home, with

about 40% of the painting being completed. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked Mr. Rivera to speak to this matter; and asked what the City can do. Mr. Rivera said this is the first time he's seen this individual; and asked citizens to contact him when they receive a notice so they can sit down together to work out a game plan. Mr. Rivera said he just recently became employed by the City, but said he knows it was more than a year and a half before the matter went to court. He said at some point you have to take more aggressive actions. Jeff Cantrell, City Manager, said he is familiar with the matter; and said several extensions have been offered to the property owner. He said three years is a long time to paint a house; and said the City would need to modify their rules and regulations if that is the way the council wants to go. Mr. Rivera said he would like to meet with Mr. Jungmeyer; and suggested he concentrate on the front side of his property since that is what the public sees first. Mr. Jungmeyer said he would meet with Mr. Rivera to formulate a plan.

Mayor Garza called for a break at 10:10 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:20 a.m.

6. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes of April 6, 2021 City Council meeting.
- b. Approval of March 2021 City Council financial reports.
- c. Approval of appropriation ordinance in the amount of \$1,353,597.97

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Daveline, to approve the Consent Agenda; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Public Hearing

- a. Public hearing for vacation of right-of-way of a portion of the alley between Avenues D and E at Washington.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Soldner, to open the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Lowe, Assistant City Engineer, spoke about the vacation. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, to close the public hearing. The motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve Order Vacating Alley Right-of-Way between Avenues D and E at Washington; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Ordinances and Resolutions

- a. Consider Resolution setting a Public Hearing for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for a taxi service. Paul Brown, City Attorney, spoke.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve Resolution 2021 R 3 setting a public hearing for May 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to consider the application of Samantha Ratley for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to operate a taxi service within the City of Hutchinson, Kansas; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consider Resolution authorizing a Special Event for Salt City Brewing Company. Paul Brown, City Attorney, said the planners want to extend the event to midnight. Councilmember Soldner asked what time the live music needs to end. Mr. Brown said the deadline is 11:00 p.m. Jason McCool, event organizer, said the brewery will close at midnight, with last call being at 11:30 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve Resolution 2021 R 4 to authorize a Special Event pursuant to City Code Section 18-801 et seq. for Salt City Brewing Company; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

9. New Business

- a. Consider Airport Apron Sealcoat Contract, Construction Services and Grant Request. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, spoke about each item included in this motion. He said only one bid was received; and said the grant is a 90/10 split, with the City's cost being \$30,906.00. Mr. Combs said funding is in place as there were leftover funds from one of last year's projects. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve the low bid and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract with Vance Brothers in an amount not to exceed \$148,773.89 for pavement maintenance associated with main transient apron; contract for construction services related to the apron as presented by Lochner in the amount not to exceed \$42,000.000; and to submit a 90/10 grant request for the main apron crack seal/sealcoat project to the FAA on behalf of the Hutchinson Regional Airport. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Consider Law Enforcement Center Public Art selection. Jeff Hooper, Police Chief, spoke about the vision for this project, saying it was meant to create a memorial in the front lobby of the Law Enforcement Center. He said they have worked with the Art Design Council; and set a limit at \$50,000.00 for the project, which is 2% of total project costs, rather than the required 1%. Chief Hooper said they received eight bids, with two of those standing out. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, talked about the selection process; and said ultimately, they chose Thomas Warren for the project. He said the sculpture will be life-sized; and will honor our two fallen officers and past police chiefs. Mr. Combs said the artist would not usually take on this small of a project, but said his

father was a former police chief so it touched his heart. He said Mr. Warren has indicated that the piece will be very detailed, down to stitching on the patches.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, to approve the contract with Thomas Jay Warren for art installation at the Law Enforcement Center for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 in accordance with the one percent for art ordinance; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Consider 2021 Design Services for Farmington Park Development. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said residents of this neighborhood wanted to see improvements made. A total of \$515,000.00 was budgeted for renovations which includes a walking loop, basketball court, pedestrian bridge over the drainage ditch, shelter, irrigation for a portion of the park, etc. Mr. Combs spoke about the selection committee; and said seven responses were received to the RFP, with the firm of Voth Engineering Consultants being selected.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, to approve the contract with Engineering Consultants for an amount of \$33,000.00 for design services for the development of Farmington Park; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Consider Aquatics Master Plan Consultant Selection. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said this was budgeted for two years ago; and was approved with a 50/50 split between the City and the Hutchinson Recreation Commission (HRC). He said HRC didn't have funds that year, but funds are now available, with the budget being \$50,000.00. Mr. Combs said we have an aging facility; and although we don't anticipate any major failures, it is time to start planning. He said our attendance should be double of what it is; and this project will involve a lot of community engagement, so we want to start early. Mr. Combs said the consultant will come up with a conceptual design; and will have a final written report with recommendations. He said it may just be a renovation or it may be a new facility. Mr. Combs said a business plan with also be presented to show annual operating cost, etc.

Councilmember Bagwell said her main concern is that she feels the Park Department tries to do too many things; and they just do it "okay". She said it is important to do a few things really well; and that's one of the reasons why we have low attendance as we don't do the Salt City Splash very well. Councilmember Bagwell also said the Zoo isn't done very well; and said if we want to get into aquatics that competes with others, we have to think about letting other things go. She suggested letting go of the zoo; and using that budget for an aquatics center. Mr. Combs said we want the community to tell us why they aren't going to the Splash. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Daveline said based on emails he's received, there seems to be a perception that we are going to "mothball" the Splash and build a new center. He said public engagement will be essential to this process. Mr. Combs said we are not even thinking about concepts, locations, etc. until we get public comments. Additional discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Soldner, to approve the contract with Lamp Rynearson for \$43,275.00 for the completion of an aquatics master plan; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

e. Consider Conditional Use Permit for a salvage yard at 7 N. Superior Street. Amy Allison, Senior Planner, said the owner is not proposing to expand the building, but will make some exterior improvements as well as some interior improvements to some of the buildings by adding equipment for their operations. She said there will be an outdoor storage area in the southeast corner of the property for the salvage portion of the business. Ms. Allison said a screening fence will be installed; and part of the tract will be left vacant. Discussion ensued.

Gary Graber, owner of the property spoke about his background; and said when he moved back home to retire, he became interested in metal recycling. He said that was 11 years ago; and he started with one truck and several bins, but now has over 40 commercial customers, several semis, roll off bins, etc. Mr. Graber said he is cognizant of the neighbors' concerns; and pledges to be a good neighbor. He talked about signage on the streets, a neighborhood cleanup, etc. Mr. Graber said additional lighting and security cameras will be installed; and believes this will help the overall security of the neighborhood. Mayor Garza asked how many employees there will be at the facility. Mr. Graber said there would be three or four. He said Hutchinson is home for him; and they will follow state regulations, be on the lookout for stolen property, etc. Councilmember Daveline said this appears to be a very worthwhile neighborhood redevelopment project; and welcomed them to Hutchinson.

Motion by Councilmember Daveline, second by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the Conditional Use Permit for a salvage yard use to be located at 7 N. Superior Street, pursuant to the factors and conditions shown. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Consider Letter of Credit reduction for Kisiwa North Addition Development Costs. Ryan Hvitlok, Director of Planning and Development, said the initial letter of credit was issued in July 2014 in the amount of \$306,870.00; and in December 2015 that was reduced to \$262,000.00. Mr. Hvitlok said in February 2021 a request was received from RCB Bank to reduce the letter of credit again. Mr. Hvitlok talked about the letter of credit policy; and said RCB Bank is asking for a 64% decrease. He said staff recommends a 55% reduction, which would reduce the letter of credit to \$118,000.00. Mr. Hvitlok said staff has done some research to see how other cities handle letters of credit. He said 35% is pretty commonplace; and he believes 35% is a fair balance of risk. Discussion ensued. Councilmember Daveline said it would be suitable for the letter of credit to be reduced proportionately. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked Kelly Danyluk with RCB Bank if a reduction to \$118,000.00 would be sufficient for his client. Mr. Danyluk said he is satisfied with that reduction.

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the request to reduce the letter of credit of Kisiwa North Addition Development Costs. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Consider easements for Cargill Groundwater Remediation Project. Brian Clennan, Director of Public Works, said KDHE is requiring a clean-up of the groundwater; and said the diluted water will be discharged into the Arkansas River. Mr. Clennan said one of the wells will be in Carey Park; and Cargill needs three easements from the City. He said those would include a testing easement, construction easement and long-term access easement. Discussion ensued regarding location of the well, groundwater drawdown, etc. Mayor Garza asked how long this project would take. Randy Schawe, Environmental, Health & Safety Professional with Cargill Salt said the timing as to implementation and the length of the project is unknown, but said it will be a long-term project, and may be 20-40 years before it meets the requirements of KDHE. Additional discussion ensued.

Motion by Councilmember Soldner, second by Councilmember Bagwell, to approve the Easement Agreement with Cargill, Inc.; and authorize the Mayor to sign. The motion passed unanimously.

The Mayor called for a break at 11:36 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 11:45 a.m.

h. Discussion regarding purchase of Atrium Hotel property. Jeff Cantrell, City Manager, said this is a delicate but important topic. He said he knows councilmembers have been hearing from the community; and said this is not an easy discussion. Mr. Cantrell said City has had a tradition with this property; and if we are to maintain our status, we need to consider the purchase.

Councilmember Bagwell asked if the owner had come down on the asking price due to recent damage to the property. Mr. Cantrell said he had not; and said he was told by the owner that he had not made a claim against his insurance. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked about Mr. Cantrell's last conversation with the potential developer. Mr. Cantrell said there is so much speculation regarding market stability, sizing, and number of rooms, etc. He said the plan would be to acquire the property, get it shovel ready, then go to an RFP.

Councilmember Daveline said the County has the property valued at \$1.6 million, with the land having a value of \$1 million and the real estate valued at \$600,000.00. He asked since the property has been vacated and boarded up if there is any room for negotiating the price with the owner of the property. Mr. Cantrell said there doesn't seem to be much flexibility; and believes the property owner considers it to be priced rock bottom. The City Manager said the owner indicated he has several other prospective buyers for other uses. Councilmember Daveline said citizens have asked him why the City can't use eminent domain since the property is boarded up, etc. Paul Brown, City Attorney, said the City can't acquire the property through eminent domain and then transfer it to someone else for economic development. He said it has to be used for City purposes; and a transfer to another party is prohibited by statute. Councilmember Daveline said he and the City Manager have had conversations regarding acquisition of the property, a deferred payment plan or an amortization of the purchase; and asked the City Manager to go into detail about what that would look like for purchase, demo, etc.

Mr. Cantrell said he is still negotiating with the property owner, but said we have \$878,000.00 to apply toward the purchase. He said if the price were \$1.6 million, the City

could front fund heavily to shorten the amortization term. Mr. Cantrell said there is some uncertainty with demolition costs ranging from \$800,000.00 to \$1.5 million because of possible issues with asbestos, special handling of materials, etc.; and he said we won't know until testing is done. Discussion ensued regarding amortization, bonding, etc. Mr. Cantrell said his hope would be to market this property; and come to terms where there would be a blending of investment with the private side. He said it is likely we could achieve that partnership, but it could slow up the schedule. Mr. Cantrell said if we can secure a partnership there is opportunity and long-term debt support under that type of agreement. Additional discussion ensued regarding increasing the transient guest tax, marketing the property, etc.

Debra Teufel, President of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, said there are 10 cities that have a higher transient guest tax; and that we would still be in line with the competition if we were to increase the tax from 7% to 8%. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said she doesn't have an understanding of the funding mixture; and asked if the demolition work could be bonded. Mr. Cantrell said he believes you can bond it, as he has experienced this in other cities. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said she is not in favor of the \$1.6 million asking price, but said she is getting a lot of pushback. She said the questions being asked are reasonable; and wants to be able to answer them. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said we are going to have to take a risk because we need to act boldly; and we need to get a private developer.

Councilmember Daveline talked about the RFP that was done several years ago, in which the City received a limited response. He asked if there are hotel brokers that could represent Hutchinson to bring in a developer. Ms. Teufel said there are brokers; and we could go that route. She talked about the number of conventions held in past years; and referenced the steady decline, with Covid having a major impact. She said in recent weeks she has had conversations with three developers, but we may need a broker. She said a lot is incumbent on-site control; and a future developer holds the cards. Ms. Teufel asked what the cost is of doing nothing or doing something; and getting the upper hand by having site control. She said some qualified developers have expressed interest, with one being from New Mexico, another that has developed in this community; and another that has developed property in Hays. She said Manhattan is always pointed to as a prime facility; and discussed their convention space. Ms. Teufel said we can't get too creative until we have site control. She said it is not good to have eight teams staying outside the city; and the Kansas State Fair having to have people stay an hour away. She said there have been events the City has lost because of site visits; and the lack of quality hotel space. Ms. Teufel said there is an opportunity to bring events back; and said 82% would view Hutch as a top contender. She said the opportunity is ours, but we need to control our destiny.

Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked if the market study that was done a couple of years ago is still relevant. Ms. Teufel said it still has some merits, with the top factors being size, proximity, walking distance and overflow capacity within walking distance. Councilmember Piros de Carvalho said she is getting questions about another location; and asked about a location on the fairgrounds. Ms. Teufel said she would welcome a hotel anywhere, but said the convention center still has value. She said we wouldn't be scraping the whole property, but keeping the convention center and building a hotel with 100 plus rooms adjacent to the convention center. Ms. Teufel said the City could support two more

hotels; and let the market decide where others could go. She said the Hoke property could have another 18 plus rooms; and wants to take that as a first step to test the market. Ms. Teufel said the owners may also consider turning a portion of the Plaza Towers into hotel rooms; and said this is a good opportunity for what that could bring to downtown.

Ed Berger, Interim General Manager of the Kansas State Fair, talked about issues the State Fair has with hotels and space. He said the State Fair attracts over 350,000 visitors each year; and annually they hold another 500 events. He said many of these events are livestock shows, with the Kansas Beef Expo held last December being one of the largest shows they have ever had. Mr. Berger said they were short 200 hotel rooms for that event; and for the Kansas Junior livestock show they were short 100 rooms. Mr. Berger said judges go out of town for hotels because Hutchinson doesn't have enough. He said we will have 640 vendors for the fair; and many of them will have to stay out of town because they won't be able to find rooms here. He spoke further about various events held at the fairgrounds as well as the shortage of rooms; and said the fairgrounds is a strong draw for ag tourism throughout the year, but the hotel situation is significant to the Kansas State Fair. Mr. Berger said they are a fee-based organization; and without fees generated from events, it hurts their budget significantly. He said the hotel situation is critical; and they would support any effort to expand the number of rooms in the community. Councilmember Piro de Carvalho asked Mr. Berger if the Fair Board still wants to explore a hotel on the grounds. Mr. Berger said yes, but only with the appropriate developer.

Councilmember Daveline said he would like to propose a motion for consideration; and moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into good faith negotiations with the owner of the Atrium Hotel property for the purpose of the City of Hutchinson to acquire the subject property as a future site for a new branded name convention center/hotel, with the City Manager to report the results of the negotiations to the City Council by June 1, 2021, including the terms of the potential acquisition.

Councilmember Piro de Carvalho said she is in favor of that with the understanding this is only authorizing an initial conversation so the public could then come before council. Paul Brown, City Attorney, said an actual contract would come back before the council for their approval. Mayor Garza said we need to communicate with the community; and understands we don't have a lot of time. He asked the City Manager if this would increase the mill levy. Mr. Cantrell said this comes from a different leg of revenue; and doesn't believe that would be the case. Additional discussion ensued. Councilmember Bagwell said she understands the need; and if we don't fix the current situation, it will be hurtful to the other hotels as we would lose out on conventions, events, etc.

Mayor Garza seconded the motion made by Councilmember Daveline. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Report of City Officials

a. Council

- Councilmember Bagwell asked if we have a report on the water slide property. Justin Combs, Director of Parks and Facilities, said he is working with the design of the water access site; and negotiations can begin in the near future for the site.
- Councilmember Piros de Carvalho asked about budget sessions; and whether those would be scheduled in May or June. Mr. Cantrell said they would be in May, but that he needs to discuss that with the Finance Director.
- Councilmember Soldner had no comments.
- Councilmember Daveline had no comments.
- Mayor Garza asked Chief Hooper about a vagrancy problem in Avenue A Park; and what could be done about that issue. Chief Hooper said they are doing periodic foot patrols, that there are trash and hazardous items being left in the park; and said maybe they could partner with the Parks Department to clean that up. Chief Hooper said it is a problem; and they've stepped up their patrols. Mayor Garza said they have a specialized patrol at Orchard Park; and asked if the same could be done at Avenue A Park. Chief Hooper said they can do that, but the patrol is only from 8:00 p.m. to midnight; and they are stretched thin as they currently patrol Orchard Park, Carey Park, Rice Park, etc. Chief Hooper said they did a targeted patrol in Orchard Park; and stopped multiple cars, with officers writing nine tickets for drag racing. Mayor Garza asked why there were patrol at Orchard Park, but not on the south side of town. He said we need to make these people feel important too.

Councilmember Bagwell said trash is a big issue. Mr. Combs said trash is more noticeable this time of year; and that it happens every spring. He said they will do their best to clean it up. Councilmember Bagwell asked how they could mitigate the risk to employees cleaning up the debris. Mr. Combs said they generally use pickers to pick up the trash, that they don't do it by hand; and also said some of the trucks have sharps containers for the disposal of needles, etc.

b. City Manager

The City Manager talked about an additional Covid relief package of approximately \$5.6 million; and how those funds might be spent.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Piros de Carvalho, second by Councilmember Soldner, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Meetings

May 4, 2021	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting
May 18, 2021	9:00 a.m.	City Council meeting